**iProduce Music**

# INVESTIGATIONS INTO SIMILARITIES AND DIFFERENCES BETWEEN HARDWARE AND iPAD APPLICATION MUSIC PRODUCTION TOOLS

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## Abstract

This research paper reviews current views on music production tools, specifically iPad synthesiser applications and hardware synthesisers. A review of the literature highlights current trends, including the increasing use of iPad digital technology to produce music. The review also highlights strongly opposing views about the quality of music produced with the iPad. It is also clear that there is a lack of empirical research in terms of comparing music produced using iPad and hardware synths.

On the basis of the review, it is argued that it is possible to design an attitudinal online survey and an online listening comparison study to investigate observed differences between differently produced sample sounds. The attitudes of the proposed sample group would be investigated using a Likert scale. Attitudes explored include negative and positive sentiment toward both hardware and iPad produced music. The methodology used to design the Likert scale is reported.

The technical design of the listening test is reported in detail, including individual settings for the synthesisers, settings for Cubase and all control details. The sample sounds are investigated using aspects of timbre based on a recent study analysing musical timbre semantics. Appropriate statistical analysis is suggested.

The discussion suggests that the music production industry would benefit from independent research to offer conclusive evidence about the difference, if any, between music produced by hardware synthesisers and controllers as opposed to that produced using the iPad. Limitations of the technical design of the listening test are also highlighted. Without independent research, there is a possibility that there may be a significant change in how music is produced, and while the advantages of digital technological advances are recognised, there is also concern that the very unique sound produced by hardware synthesisers may be lost.